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July 9, 2002

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Honorable Sara Kyle, Chairman Tennessee Regulatory Authority 460 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, TN 37243

Re: BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc's Entry Into Long Distance (InterLATA) Service in Tennessee Pursuant to Section 271 of the Telecommunications of 1996.

97-00309

Dear Chairman Kyle:

Enclosed please find the original and thirteen copies of a Petition to Intervene filed on behalf of Birch Telecom of the South Inc. in the above-captioned proceeding. A \$25.00 check is enclosed for the filing fee. Please contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

Henry Walker

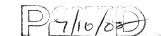
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414 Union Street, Suite 1600

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HW/cw



BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

July 9, 2002

In re:	.)	
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s	<i>)</i>	Docket No. 97-00309
Entry Into Long Distance (InterLATA))Service	<i>)</i>	Docker 140. 97-00309
in Tennessee Pursuant to Section 271 of the	í	
Telecommunications Act of 1996	,	

PETITION TO INTERVENE

Birch Telecom of the South Inc. ("Birch") petitions the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") to intervene as a matter of right in the above-captioned proceeding pursuant to T.C.A. § 4-5-310(b).

The above-captioned docket concerns the Authority's approval of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") entry into the long distance business in Tennessee. In order to receive this approval, BellSouth must demonstrate to the Authority compliance with Section 271(c)(1)(A) and 271(c)(2) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Birch is certified by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") to offer intrastate telecommunications services in Tennessee. Birch therefore, has an interest in BellSouth's compliance with the provisions of Section 271 of the Act. The legal rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other legal interests of Birch may be affected or determined by the outcome of this proceeding.

Furthermore, granting this petition will not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of this proceeding, and Birch does not request any changes in the procedural schedule already established in this case. Birch therefore requests that this Petition to Intervene be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Wen Warfu

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties of record, via hand-delivery, overnight delivery or U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows on this 9th day of July, 2002:

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Warks

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